Sunday September 11, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 2: The Six Days of Genesis

A BOOK THAT RECORDS THE BEGINNING

As human beings, we ask the big questions of life, questions about meaning, questions about our **origin-where did I come from? Identity-who am I? Purpose-why am I here? Morality-how am I to live? Destiny-where am I going?**

Imagine a book that begins with answers to these big questions! That is what we find in the first two chapters of Genesis.

Genesis simply means "origin" or "beginning".

The book of Genesis, along with the next four books of the Bible were authored by Moses, around 1688 B.C. It was given to Moses by inspiration and revelation of God most likely while on Mt. Sinai.

The universe to which Genesis introduces us is no mythical construct. Think about the Egyptian and Mesopotamian (Assyrian and Babylonian) cultures that existed around that time. Their literature is filled with mythologies, with gods and goddesses, spirits fighting with each other, and earth and planets being formed from the dead bodies of gods who were killed, etc. These are nothing but human conjectures and stories.

In contrast to such mythologies prevailing in those times, here is a book where the first two chapters are so clear, so powerful, so distinct, so majestic. God is revealed who brings all things into existence.

FYI only:

- Mesopotamian (Assyrian and Babylonian) mythology (4000 BC)
- Egyptian mythology (3100 BC and on)
- Zend-Avesta, by Zoroaster, about 1200 B.C., the sacred book of the Medes and Persians to revive the ancient Magian religion
- The Four Vedas, the four sacred books of the Hindus, or the Institutes of Menu, written by Menu, son of Brahma, and containing the code of civil and religious laws of the Indians, written about 1100 B.C.
- Five Kings, the sacred book of the Chinese, written by Confucius about 1100 B.C.

- The Pitikes of the Buddhists, written by Gautama, founder of Buddhism about 600 B.C.
- Greek mythology (900 BC on)
- Roman mythology (100 BC on)
- The Koran, written by Mohammed about A.D. 600
- The Eddas of Scandinavia, two religious codes containing mythology and traditions, written about A.D. 1100 or 1200.

The Bible was given by inspiration and men had written down what was revealed to them.
This means they used the language and literary styles of their day and time.
There are narratives, factual statements, prophetic text, use of metaphors, poetry, and so on.
Hence, we have rules for reading and interpreting Scripture, which apply throughout our reading and understanding of Scripture.

One of these has to do with what is literal and what is metaphorical. The basic premise is to take things as literal when presented as such.

Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are a narrative, a presentation of what took place literally in the Six Days of creation. The context is clearly stated for us. There is no indication that any of it is metaphorical.

Read

Genesis 1:1-31

Genesis 2:7

GENESIS 1 & 2 QUICK OVERVIEW

This is the Biblical account of creation, the origin of the universe and of life on earth.

Chapter 2 is an expanded view of certain events that took place during the first six days. We can state this because God completed all things in six days and rested on the seventh day.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

God the eternal, self-existent, uncreated Creator.

There was a beginning. But that beginning was not for God, it was for the heavens and the earth – the universe. God was outside the beginning. He was before the beginning. He was the reason for the beginning.

More about this in an upcoming sermon on Sun Sep 25, when we discuss "Creator God?".

GOD CREATED, MADE, SHAPED

There are at least three different Hebrew words used in Genesis 1, and 2, with reference to God bringing the universe, the earth, and things on the earth into being.

Hebrew word "***bara***" = created. To bring something into existence. To bring something out of nothing. It is used 7 times in the first two chapters of Genesis (Genesis 1:1,21,27; Genesis 2:3,4). The word "***bara***" is always used only with God as its subject.

Latin "*Creatio ex nihilo*" means "creation out of nothing"

Hebrew word "***asah***" = made, accomplished, do, filled with, arranged, organized, structure, appointed. Working on something that is already there. (Genesis 1:7,16,25,26,31; Genesis 2:2,3,4)

Hebrew word "***yatsar***" = shaped, fashioned, formed, sculptured. Used only 3 times in these two chapters. (Genesis 2:7,8,19).

These three action words used in Genesis 1&2 reveal God to us.
He is Creator, Maker, and Fashioner.
He is Creator, the One who brings something out of nothing.
He is Maker, the One who arranges, organizes, and places things in order in His creation.
He is Fashioner, the One who personally touches, sculpts, forms and fashions His creation.

GOD SAID – THE CREATIVE ACT OF GOD

Throughout Genesis 1, the emphasis is on God speaking things into the way He desires them to be. "God said" is repeated 10 times in Genesis 1.

Psalm 33:6,9 (NASB)
6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their lights.
9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood firm.

Hebrews teaches us that God's Word is alive and powerful. The heavens were framed by the Word of God. God upholds all things by His powerful Word. (Hebrews 1:3, 4:12; 11:3)

The Word of God created both inorganic and organic matter, both non-life and life came into being as God spoke.

GOD DIVIDED; GOD CALLED

We see God dividing (separating, or distinguishing) and calling (assigning) certain things.

God divided light from darkness and God called the light Day and the darkness Night (Genesis 1:4-5).

God divided the waters that were in the firmament (atmospheric heavens) from the waters that were below on the earth. He called the firmament Heaven (Genesis 1:7-8).

God separated land and seas and called the dry land Earth and waters He called Seas (Genesis 1:9-10)

GOD BLESSED THEM

God blessed the living creatures (Genesis 1:22) to be fruitful and multiply.
God blessed man and woman (Genesis 1:28) not only to be fruitful and multiply, but to have dominion (authority and stewardship) of the earth. More on this later.

Let's do a quick run through on what happened in each of the six days.

DAY ONE (GENESIS 1:1-5)—THE UNIVERSE, PLANET EARTH, AND TIME

God created the heavens – the vast expanse of space.
Although not stated it is possible at this time the heavens (space) may have also been filled with other planetary bodies, like earth.

God created the earth.
The earth was without form and void.
"without form" meaning waste, like a desert. Does not mean without shape.
"void" meaning empty, as something waiting to be filled. Could also be when something is left ruined. But something does not have to be ruined to be empty.
The verse it simply indicating that the earth still needed to be worked on.

The earth was covered with water.

He would then set out to fill the heavens and the earth with what He had in mind.

God made and shaped what He had created into an organized cosmos.

God called light into what He had just created. We realize the stars had not been created yet. We can safely state that God Himself was the Source of this light. God Himself caused physical light to come on the earth, without a sun on the first 3 days. If we go way into the future, when there are new heavens and a new earth, in the new heavens there will be no sun. Yet, the new earth will have light without the sun. God Himself, will cause physical light to be on the new earth (See Revelation 21:22-25; 22:5). So, if that is how it is going to be in the future, we can easily accept that this is how it was, on the first three days. God commanded light to shine out of darkness (2 Corinthians 4:6).

We can infer that God set the earth rotating on its axis as this time causing what we understand to be the “day” and “night” that make up a 24-hour period.

Space, Matter (mass-energy) and Time came into existence on Day 1.

God created space, matter, and time.
He is the Origin, the Beginning of space, matter, and time.

He dwells outside of space, matter, and time.

All of space in enveloped by Him. He measures the heavens with a span (Isaiah 40:12). He stretches out the heavens like a curtain (Isaiah 40:22).

All of matter is enveloped by Him. He sits above the circle of the earth (Isaiah 40:22). In Him are all things.

All of time is enveloped by Him. He is Alpha and Omega. He is at the starting and at the ending at the same time. All of time is wrapped in Him. He dwells in the eternal now. He is the great I AM.

In Genesis 1:5 we see the context being set for each day.

Genesis 1:5 (NASB)
God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

The same Hebrew word "***yom***" is used to refer to "day" as in the light part of the day, and to the day/night, 24-hour period of one full day.

In Genesis 2:4, it is used in the singular to refer to the collection of the six days of creation. In Genesis 2:15, it is used to speak of the instant (moment) Adam would die if he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:4 (NASB)
This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

Side Note: This is the reason we can include Genesis 1:1 as part of Day 1. After describing each of the 7 days, in wrapping up in Genesis 2:4, Moses includes the creation of the heavens and the earth (same as in Genesis 1:1) as the collection of days "the day" when Jehovah Elohim (LORD God) made the earth and the heavens (universe, space). In Exodus 20:11 once again it is affirmed that in six days the LORD made the heavens (universe, space) and the earth. Hence Genesis 1:1 is part of Day 1.

The Hebrew word "***yom***" could be used to refer to day (as opposed to night), day (24 hour period), as a division of time (e.g. a working day), a day of the month (e.g. sixth day of the first month), a collection of days (e.g. lifetime), a general time period of any length (e.g. the day of the Lord), and other temporal references (e.g. today, tomorrow, yesterday). Hence, the word "***yom***" must be understood from the context of its usage.

The context for "***yom***" in its use in Genesis chapter 1, is set for us at the start in Genesis 1:5 and hence must be held consistent throughout, unless there is a change in the thought of the text, which does not happen until Genesis 2:4, after reference to the seventh day. Hence the first seven days being reported upon in Genesis chapters 1 and 2, are literal 24-hour periods of night and day. Genesis 1, is later taken as a prototype for a six-day work week (Exodus 20:9-11).

DAY TWO (GENESIS 1:6-8)—THE FIRMAMENT

God began "making" and "shaping" the heavens and the earth into an organized and functioning cosmos. He was preparing it to support the life that would be created. God created the "firmament" (literally vast expanse) and separated waters above and beneath. We understand this to be the atmospheric heavens surrounding earth, preparing for the earth's water/rain/cloud formation and water cycle.

Now it is not very clear what this layer of water above the earth would have looked like. Perhaps a cloud covering as we are familiar with today or something different. We are not sure. What we do know is that initially there was no rain falling on the earth, instead a mist went up from the earth and watered the face of the earth (Genesis 2:5-6).

The word "firmament" is also used in the Old Testament for the vast expanse of space, the starry heavens, etc. Later, on Day Four God will fill the firmament of the heavens with stars.

DAY THREE (GENESIS 1:9-13)—LAND AND SEAS, VEGETATION

Day Three began with organizational processes acting on the rotating earth that had been set in motion.

Land and Seas were separated. And then on the Land, God called all kinds of vegetation into existence.

According to scientific theories, biological systems developed over long ages by natural processes. However, the Bible informs us that all of plant life was brought into existence as a one-day event. And God set in place their ability to bear fruit and have seed for propagation.

For the first time we see the phrase ***"according to its kind"*** (Genesis 1:11-12). This as we understand it today, is the uniqueness for each type of vegetation coded in its DNA. The actual structure of the DNA molecule and how it codes for proteins is the same from bacteria to yeast to plants, animals and humans. The DNA structure is the same, and yet the DNA sequence is different in every species.

The design of the DNA happened on Day 3, when God created vegetation and spoke those words, in Genesis 1:11 ***"according to their kind"***! The DNA double helix formed by

base pairs attached to a sugar-phosphate backbone was designed in the mind of God and set in place at this instant.

The brilliance of God!

The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:x-x)

DAY FOUR (GENESIS 1:14-19)—SUN, MOON, AND STARS

Once the planet had been properly prepared, the earth was ready for its clocks – a time-keeping system for "signs and seasons, and for days and years."

The stars were created.

God said: "Let there be lights…." Galaxies, constellations, and billions of stars were formed in the vast expanse of the heavens.

The stars have always been a great fascination for us, humans. Just the sheer magnitude of the universe with its millions, literally, countless stars, overwhelms us. It is just unimaginable.

The following are just rough estimates that scientists have presented to us:
Scientists estimate there are about a trillion galaxies (about 10^12), with a total of about 10^24 (1 septillion) stars in the universe.

Our Solar system is part of the Milky Way galaxy, which is just one of the trillion galaxies.

The Sun is just one of the billions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
The Sun is considered an average-size yellow dwarf star.
The Sun has a diameter of roughly **1.4 million kilometers** (870,000 miles). To put this in perspective, this is almost **110 times the diameter of the Earth**. What this means is that about **one million Earth's** could fit inside the Sun.
Temperatures inside the Sun can reach **15 million degrees** Celsius.
The Sun alone contains **99.8% of the total mass in the Solar System**.

The earth was deliberately built the way is it, set to rotating on its axis (Day 1), and spinning around its sun (Day 4). The sun is about 150,000,000 km away. The earth is

utterly dependent on the sun for its light, heat, and energy. Sunlight takes 8 and 1/3 minutes to get to us.

Life on earth would not be possible without our nearest star, the sun. As the earth rotating on its axis, revolves around the sun, we receive light and heat, experience day and night, and all that is needed for plant, animal, and human life on earth to flourish.

The Bible teaches us that God created everything, this vast universe, and the stars (Genesis 1:16). The heavens and stars are called the work of His fingers (Psalm 8:3). The heavens declare the glory of God and the vast expanse of the universe are the works of His hands (Psalm 19:1-2). Scriptures tell us that the invisible attributes of God, His eternal power and Deity are seen in His creation (Romans 1:20). Hence, we can only imagine that the reason the universe is so vast is to convey to us the infiniteness of our God, the greatness of His eternal unending power. And it also conveys to us the greatness of His knowledge. The Bible tells us He knows the number of the stars, He calls them all by name (Psalm 147:4).

The stars serve for:
signs - an indicator, a marker of time (not signs as in supernatural events)
seasons - appointed times, set times
days and years - indicator of passage of time

In Genesis 1:16 the word lights, means luminaries, or bright objects. This does not have to imply possessing light of their own. The terms “greater light” refers to the sun, which is very bright, and “lesser light” implying the moon giving off (reflecting) much lower light.

Universe Physical Constants

DAY FIVE (GENESIS 1:20-23)—SEA CREATURES, WINGED BIRDS

The oceans presently cover about 70% of the Earth’s surface.

The first life God created lived in water, and much of what we call life dwells in the oceans, lakes, and rivers of our planet. He also created the birds that fly. He blessed them to fill the seas and the earth.

Great sea creatures and winged birds – it is possible that many of these have now become extinct.

We note the phrase once again “according to its kind”.

DAY SIX (GENESIS 1:24-25)—CATTLE, ANIMALS, AND CREEPING THINGS

On Day Six, God focused on creating land creatures-cattle, creeping things, and animals.

He evidently created these vast “kinds” in direct proportion to how they would relate to humans. Once again many of these creatures may now be extinct.

We note the phrase once again “according to its kind”.

Dinosaurs and other strange creatures
Noah’s Flood
Extinction of creatures
Layers of soil formation
Fossils

DAY SIX (GENESIS 1:26-31)—THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN, MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

And finally God’s Masterpiece – man and woman, uniquely fashioned like no other creature, made in His own image.

Genesis 2:7-25 is an expanded view of Genesis 1:26-30 when God created man and woman.

Forming man from the dust

Placing him in the Garden to work

Naming of birds and animals

And then came Eve

The Genesis Commission

We will come back later to talk about the grand culmination of God’s work – human beings.

FEW MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Let's highlight a few more things from Genesis 1&2.

ALL CREATION IS AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE, OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIPRESENCE

#1, THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, ARE EMBEDDED IN EVERYTHING GOD CREATED, MADE, AND FASHIONED.

Romans 1:20 (NASB)
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

#2, TIME, POWER (ENERGY) AND DESIGN (INTELLIGENCE) WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER (COMPRESSED TOGETHER) IN EVERYTHING GOD CREATED, MADE, AND FASHIONED.

Isaiah 40:28 (NASB)
Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is unsearchable.

We hypothesize certain processes requiring millions and billions of years to happen, through accidental arrangements that somehow give rise to organization and intelligence. Science claims that the universe is about 14 billion years old, and the earth is about 4 billion years old. Remember, these are theories that we propose and then build scientific models to try to support this presupposition. None of these have been proven other than in scientific models that we construct.

Yet for God, the Creator, He brings time, power, and design together in an instant.

Energy, matter, space, and time were brought together in an instant in the creative acts of God.

God created everything essentially in an advanced state. What in our minds may have taken great lengths of time to happen, for the creative power of God, it was an instant.

Creation is the work of God. It is supernatural. We call it "nature" but really it is the work of God revealed to us in a controlled manner for us to see, experience, enjoy and harness for our benefit.

In a miracle – time, power, and design are brought together, in an instant.
Example: water turned into wine, bread and fish multiplied
Think about Jesus turning into wine.
In an instant the chemical structure was modified. The normal natural process (which could have taken years) was bypassed and wine came to be, in an instant.

#3, HE SET RECURRING SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES IN PLACE.

Earth's physical processes

Biological processes

Expanding universe

CONTRASTING CREATION AND EVOLUTIONARY COSMOLOGY

Difference of the Genesis 1 account from evolutionary biology and big bang cosmology:

The Bible	**Science**
Earth first, stars later	Stars first, earth later
Plants first, stars later	Stars first, plants later
Sea creatures, then birds, then land animals, then man	Sea creatures, then land animals, then birds, man

In subsequent Sundays we will address Big Bang Cosmology and Evolutionary Biology.

MALE AND FEMALE - THE WONDER OF YOU

GOD FORMED YOU IN HIS OWN IMAGE.
The image of God in man was personally imprinted by God and is not the result of blind matter fumbling its unguided way through myriad different permutations.

GOD PUT SOMETHING ETERNAL IN YOU.
Genesis affirms that (human) life has a chemical base made of the ground, but Genesis also points out that God breathed into man.

Hence, this species, that are called Homo sapiens, are vastly distinct from animals and other creatures. God created us in His image, so much so that God Himself could become one of us in the Incarnation, in the Person of Jesus Christ.

GOD DESIGNED YOU NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL.
As human beings we are uniquely designed with a mind and a spirit.
With the mind we engage with science. With the spirit we engage by faith with God.

The mind connects us with this natural world. In the spirit we connect with the God who is Spirit and learn of His unseen world.
We are created with capacity to engage with the natural and the spiritual.
We are created with the capacity to operate both with the mind and with the spirit.

It is not a choose only one, either this or that, but have both, engage the natural and the spiritual.
That is why we can be both intellectual and spiritual.

The body and mind are finite. The spirit connects us to the infinite. That is why the Scriptures point out all things are possible with God. The Scriptures also state all things are possible to the one who believes. Our believing connects us with the limitless, infinite One to whom all things are possible.

YOUR RESPONSE

SALVATION CALL (BY YOUR FREE CHOICE AND FREE WILL)
If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8
If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12
If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6
If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12
If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12
If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME
Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday September 11, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 2: The Six Days of Genesis

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *Genesis 1 & 2*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Q1, Genesis chapters 1 & 2 were given by revelation to Moses around 1600 B.C. Moses was not a scientist and was not writing a scientific record of the creation of the heavens

and the earth. Yet, in this narrative, we see pointers to what we can recognize today scientifically. Example: "according to its kind", pointing to the DNA., and so on. Take time to list out insights presented in these two chapters which we can understand scientifically.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
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CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon series on faith and science, our intent is to address some of the common questions that arise in conversations around faith and science. Questions about the existence of God, origin of this universe, origin of life, the creation account as given in the book of Genesis in the Bible, and faith and science – is it possible to be a person of faith, while engaging in science, and so on? Our goal is to address these questions in as simple a manner as possible and share information that will be useful. This is a five-part sermon series. Part-1: Can Science explain it all? Part-2: The Six days of Genesis. Part-3: Origins of the Cosmos. Part-4: Creator God? Part-5: Origin of the Species.

In this sermon we take a close look at the six days of creation, as recorded for us in Genesis 1&2.

KEYWORDS :

Faith and science, religion and reason, cosmology, evolutionary biology, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

The following books/materials were researched and information from these resources was used in compiling this sermon for educational/instructional purposes only. All rights and credits are due to the respective authors/publishers.

John C. Lennox: Seven Days That Divide the World - The Beginning According to Genesis and Science
ICR.org (Institute for Creation Research)
Answersingenesis.org
creationtraining.org

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

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